

NSC BRIEFING

PAKISTAN

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- I. In Pakistan this Tuesday General Ayub completed military take-over of 7 October by assuming full presidential powers. 25X1
- A. Ayub forced President Mirza to tender a formal resignation because Mirza would not refrain from political maneuvering.
1. Mirza received the word only a few hours before being hustled to plane for Quetta under armed escort. Mirza will go to England, at Ayub's "suggestion," as soon as belongings are packed.
- II. Move will have little effect on Karachi's pro-Western foreign policy or on domestic policies previously outlined by Ayub to "clean up mess" in Pakistan.
- A. Ayub remains committed to Pakistan's Baghdad Pact and SEATO ties, although he may try more conciliatory line toward Arab states.
- III. Reaction within Pakistan likely to be favorable as Mirza had no popular support. [His Sister of Founder - Fatima Jinnah]
- A. However, in East Pakistan, while people are not sorry to see Mirza go, there is likely to be increased fear of domination by West Pakistan as army is overwhelmingly West Pakistani in composition

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1. While military's control of East Pakistan not likely to be threatened in near future, Bengali population probably will chafe under absolute army rule.
  2. Sporadic disturbances may occur and eventually widespread unrest if new government discriminates against East Pakistan.
- IV. Ayub's take-over probably will assure political stability for the present.
- A. Under martial law, regime will not tolerate opposition.
  - B. With major rival removed, Ayub should feel able to give civilian experts free hand in implementing necessary reforms.
- V. However, blame for any shortcomings of new regime will be placed squarely on army since it is now in position of sole responsibility.
- A. Thus in long run Ayub may be unable to maintain his own prestige and that of the armed forces in public mind.